



California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

The Informer

Message from HQ

COL Richard M.H. Loesch
CDTF Commander



Fourth Quarter 2005
California National Guard
Counterdrug Task Force

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Counterdrug Headquarters
Sacramento, CA

Public Affairs Note:

For reasons of operational security, the last names of most CDTF members are not published.

This quarter is rapidly coming to an end but it is going out with a bang. We just completed our LEA Planning Conference in conjunction with the California Narcotic Officers Association (CNOA). This was the first time we tried this approach and from the feedback I've received it was well worth the effort. We definitely reached more LEAs than ever before. I want to thank all of you who participated in this effort. I was extremely impressed with your dedication, presentations, and overall team work. My thanks to CNOA also for the display floor space they provided us to showcase our teams.

We are still operating off of a congressional Continuing Resolution Act (CRA). This means we have no budget for FY 06 until the committees - formed of members from the Senate and House - pass the Defense Authorization and Appropriations Bills. Hopefully, these bills will clear their respective committees before Congress adjourns for the holidays. If they don't we will have to wait until Congress returns from their holiday break in January 2006. The immediate effect is our task force does not know what the congressional plus up (if any) will be thereby hampering our ability to know what size force we will be able to field for FY 06. This is especially irksome as some 80 CD Soldiers will REFRAD between now and March 2006. Keep the positive thoughts going that we will know where we stand before Congress adjourns.

This quarter brought about the transition of TEA into A Company of the 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation (or the Security and Support Battalion). This transition eliminates the Reconnaissance And Interdiction Detachment or RAID because the aircraft now belong to the Company not our CDTF. TEA is still with us. They will continue to support LEAs and CBOs. The CD Cmd Grp has worked diligently with the

State Army Aviation Officer (SAAO) during this transition to ensure continued support for CD Army Aviation missions in support of LEAs and CBOs. We have worked out mission flow procedures and how TEA will fit into the Army Aviation Support Facilities at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos and Mather Field. I am heartened by the cooperation and good will displayed during this transition. I believe this transition will actually improve our support to LEAs and CBOs.

Over the next couple of weeks selected CDTF personnel will attend a series of workshops and seminars that will lay down the path for transformation within the CD Programs throughout the states and territories. NGB J3-CD is redefining Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) and outline its vision at the DDR Workshop 5 through 7 December 2005.

Following that workshop (8 through 10 December 2005) was the Combatant Command (COCOM) Workshop. NGB J3-CD is seeking input from the field to build what amounts to Mobile Training Teams for CD Analyst, Surface Reconnaissance and DDR missions to train Host Nation Forces. The goal of the workshop is to build these teams into uniform organizations with standardized equipment, tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs). The intent, once standardization is complete, is to send these teams on a rotating basis into Host Nations for 2 to 3 month deployments to train indigenous forces in

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investigative analyst support, drug interdiction and demand reduction TTPs. NGB J3-CD's impetus behind this endeavor is to make the CD Program more relevant to DoD and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The assumption is, once we attain this relevancy, DoD will be more inclined to fix us by funding us at a set strength level that will incorporate cost of living increases, pay raises, and promotions into our funding stream. It's an ambitious project but 34 Adjutants General, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counter narcotics, and the European, Central, and Southern COCOMs have all expressed interest in developing this structure. During 11 through 15 December 2005 I will be at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey attending a CD Executive Seminar entitled “NGB

CD: Meeting the Challenges of the Post-9/11 Era”. Speakers included:

- Mike Andrews, Office of Counter Narcotics Enforcement, Dept. of Homeland Security;
- Scott Burns, Deputy Director, ONDCP State and Local Affairs;
- Robert Charles, former Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement;
- Chris Kemp, Chief of Staff, JIATF-W;
- Eric Rubin, Director, Office of Policy Planning and Coordination, INL;
- Ron Brooks, Director of Northern California HIDTA;
- Jeffrey Murphy, Counter Narcotics Trafficking Office, DIA;
- Larry Wilbanks, OSD Counter Narcotics Policy and Support.

We will garnered a wide range of information concerning the current state of world wide narcotics trafficking and narco terrorism. I want each

and every one of you to know that I'm especially proud of the accomplishments of this task force during FY 05. Every team excelled. We have established new records in drug interdiction/eradication, broadened our outreach in demand reduction activities with our communities, saved countless lives in our support to disaster areas, expanded our support missions along the border and coast, reestablished an excellent linguist translation/transcription program, brought the UH-1 back into CAMP service etc. etc. We have our obstacles to overcome but rest assured we will, by always doing our best.

I hope all of you took the time to spend some quality moments with your families this Thanksgiving. Remember our deployed and their families in your thoughts and prayers. And from Steph and me, may you and yours have a blessed holiday season – Merry Christmas. CARRY ON!

1.2 Million Marijuana Plants Seized During Season

By CPT Jason M.

CDTF Execution Operations Officer

The California Counterdrug Task Force participated in the largest eradication efforts in the State of California's history while supporting the Department of Justice Campaign Against Marijuana Plants (CAMP) 2005 season. The Counterdrug Task Force dedicated over 1640 man hours in ground tactical operations and over 1663 flight hours in marijuana reconnaissance to Northern and Southern California agencies. Of the 1204 marijuana gardens discovered, CAMP teams eradicated more than 1.2 million plants, seized more than 5000 pounds of recently cultivated and processed marijuana and assisted law enforcement with 37 arrests. In a six month time period, the California Counterdrug Task Force provided unprecedented support to over 58 local, state and federal agencies explicitly for the eradication of marijuana for the state of California.



Task Force members inspecting and preparing a large bundle of marijuana plants for sling load transportation.



Message from the Senior Enlisted Advisor

By CMSgt Jim Alsobrook

As I make preparations to vacate the Counterdrug's senior enlisted position it's hard to believe a year has passed, although for our deployed service members it probably seems a lot longer. I would ask that you keep those who are deployed and their families in your thoughts and prayers always and especially during this Holiday Season. We have made it through a very difficult and challenging year; we have survived a reorganization of the California Army National Guard, QRF, MACA and CERFP tasking requirements, Title 10 deployments, REFRADing soldiers and monumental budget issues. We said farewell and paid a final tribute to our fallen comrades, MSgt Doug Ellis, SSG Alfredo Barajas Silva and SSG Paul Christian Neubauer. Despite all the challenges you still managed not only to accomplish the mission, but actually exceed all expectations. These accomplishments are a direct result of the dedication, commitment and hard work of the soldiers and airmen in the field. Our Team Commanders and First Sergeants are also deserving of our recognition for their resourcefulness and leadership. The Headquarters Staff sections have also worked very hard to support the Teams as policies and processes had to be developed and implemented to deal with the challenges this past year has brought. Looking back a lot of positive changes have taken place in our program, we must continue to improve our program internally while at the same time continue to provide outstanding and relevant support to our customers. We still have a way to go, but we are on the right path, one that will lead to our future success. Looking forward, I anticipate a smooth handoff to CSM London upon his return to the Counterdrug program in early January 2006. I am grateful to have had this opportunity and it has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve the Counterdrug program

Retired Task Force Executive Officer Awarded Legion of Merit by TAG

Courtesy of Manteca Bulletin

Sierra JROTC's Gose receives Legion of Merit

By VINCE REMBULAT

Staff reporter of the
MANTECA (CALIF.) BULLETIN

Venjie Gose encompasses the seven values of the U.S. military.

That's according to Gen. Bill Wade, a highly decorated two-star officer who was the special guest of the Sierra High JROTC on Tuesday.

"Loyalty, duty, integrity, respect, self-less service, honor and personal courage — he (Gose) lives those values," Wade said to the Timberwolf Battalion.

His main reason of breaking away from his usually busy schedule was to honor Gose with the Legion of Merit award, which is one of the highest honors given during peacetime.

Gose was presented the award during the late morning event that was attended by the battalion along with school and district officials. Included were Principal Rick Arucan and Bob Lee, director of secondary education for the Manteca Unified School District.

Earlier, Wade and Col. Loesch had a chance to see the battalion in action during its recent excursion to Camp Parks as shown during a power point presentation.

Wade spoke to students about staying the course while becoming tomorrow's leaders.

"Always do what's right," he said. "Even when you know no one's watching."

To reach reporter Vince Rembulat, e-mail vrembulat@manteocabulletin.com





SAFETY CORNER

By CW3 Dan D.
CDTF Safety Officer

I want to start off by thanking Mr. Lineberry for all his help and wish him good health in the future. He has built a tremendous safety program.

I want Commanders and every member of the CDTF to know if they are involved in "any" accident or incident, on or off duty, to call me and the safety office for notification and the safety office will fill out (if needed) the Incident Report, Abbreviated Ground Accident Report, and Abbreviated Aviation Accident report over the phone. Remember all accidents are reportable not all are recordable.

The 2005 stats are in, along With some holiday safety tips. Have a fun and safe holiday season.

We have a safety SOP? Yep! It's called the CA-CDTF 385-10: The SOP was necessary to comply with some requirements from NGB CD and to fill in some confusion gaps that kept surfacing in the conduct of our safety program. It covers all safety requirements in the environments we work in. My intent is to provide everything, regulations, forms, training, the whole enchilada in one SOP available on a CD ROM. It will also be available soon on the CD Share point. This is good stuff... and a great tool. Is the Motorcycle Safety Course mandatory? Yep! Don't forget, you must complete an approved motorcycle safety course before you can ride a motorcycle as a member of this organization. See the CDC's policy dated June of 2004.

Do I have to fill out a POV Risk Assessment? Yep! It is mandatory for all soldiers operating a POV, GSA, TDY, PCS, or on leave must complete a risk assessment using the CD vehicle risk assessment. This was briefed at the Horizon Conference in September 2004. . It is great tool and has already proved itself a very effective in accident prevention and risk management. POV accidents are down from 25 last year to 13 this year.

Holiday Season

Remember this holiday season to:

- Change the batteries in our smoke and CO2 alarms as well as do our function checks.
- Review our family emergency action plans, remember what we do in case of fire, earthquake, intruder, missing family member etc.
- Start the house heater for the first time in several months and maybe get a gas leak or malfunction that could jeopardize our family's health. Remember the heaters in your house are inspected for free by the utility company that provides the power to activate it, gas co, electric co. etc.

Schools

Have you completed the Commanders safety course as directed by the Secretary of the Army? It is available on line through the Army Combined Readiness Center (formally the Army Safety Center)

RCTA will be conducting the Counterdrug Safety Course in Hawaii (ya that's right, Hawaii) in Jan 06. This course is a must for all designated Safety personnel. It is the qualifying course for those designated to be Safety Officers and/ or Safety NCOs at the Team level. RCTA can be located on the web via your favorite search engine. You can then sign up for the class as directed per web instructions. If you get confused, call me or MSG Post.

Accidents for FY 2005 closeout: We had 111 accidents. They cost the program \$78,272. We lost 121 man days (those are the days where the person did not come to work because they were injured). We sustained 390 restricted work days (those are the days where the person cannot do there normal and customary work). CDTF vehicle accidents = 20. POV= 13 POV accidents. POV accidents still took a very heavy toll on us this year. We are continuing a very aggressive campaign to reduce POV accidents for FY 2006. One course of action is continued use of vehicle risk assessments. Personal injury: We sustained 32 personal injury accidents, 19 on duty and 13 off duty accidents.

TFO Member Awarded Citizen Certificate of Commendation

Submitted by TFO

On October 5th, Bill Lockyer the Attorney General for the state of California presented TFO member, SSG Trent W., the Citizen Certificate of Commendation for his support to the Los Angeles Clearinghouse, Special Operations Unit (LACLEAR SOU) team. SSG W. is a member of the LACLEAR SOU team and since January 1, 2004 they supported more than 300 wire taps for more

than 50 criminal investigations. These wire taps resulted in hundreds of arrests with 127 arrests for narcotics; activities alone. In addition, \$38,500,000 in narcotics and \$10,325,000 in assets were seized.



Religious Holidays

By MSG Debra P.
CDTF EO Advisor

What religious holidays are celebrated in November/December/January time-frame? There are many more holidays than the few we may hear about such as Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Chanukah. Take a few minutes to read up on various religious holidays. To find out more, check out the websites listed.

Christmas - Birth of Jesus

The birth of Jesus Christ been celebrated by Christians for more than 1600 years. Christmas is observed annually on December 25 although the exact date of Christ's birth is not known.

Festival of Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a 7-day festival celebrating the African American people, their culture and their history. It is a time of celebration, community gathering, and reflection. A time of endings and beginnings, Kwanzaa begins on Dec 26th and continues until New Years Day. Each evening a family member, usually the youngest child, lights candles in a special candle-holder and discusses one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. On the 6th day, Jan 1, family and friends get together and enjoy a large feast and celebrate their history, culture, and the upcoming New Year.
(Source: www.melanet.com/kwanzaa)

Story of Chanukah

Every Year between the end of November and the end of December, Jewish people around the world celebrate the holiday of Chanukah, The Festival of Lights. Chanukah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. Jews celebrate Chanukah, which means "rededication", to mark the victory over the Syrians and the rededication of the

Jerusalem Temple. The Festival of the Lights lasts for eight days to commemorate the miracle of the oil that stayed lit for eight days. In America, families celebrate Chanukah at home. They give and receive gifts, decorate the house, entertain friends and family, eat special foods, and light the holiday menorah.
(Source: www.holidays.net/chanukah/story.html)

Festival of Fast-Breaking

The celebration at the end of Ramadan is called "Eid-ul-Fitr (the Festival of Fast-Breaking). The celebration of 'Eid-ul-Fitr lasts three days, although the main festivities occur on the first day. It is a joyous occasion, similar to Christmas in its celebration but with strong religious significance. The giving of a special charity for this occasion is obligatory. Muslims dress in holiday attire, attend a special community prayer in the morning, and visit friends and relatives. In some places, children are given gifts or money by their parents and relatives.

Wicca's Winter Solstice

Wicca's honor nature, they have eight festivals, or Sabbats, that mark the year as it turns through its seasons. Winter Solstice happens near Dec 21, the holiday is rooted deeply in the cycle of the year. It celebrates the longest night and shortest day. It is the birthday of the new Sun King, the Son of God. Winter Solstice follows many of the traditional customs of the season. It is customary for Wicca's to decorate the Yule tree, and adorn the house with holly, ivy and pine. It is the time when Father Winter arrives bearing gifts and exchange gifts.
(Source: <http://members.fortunecity.com/smashx14/pagan.html>)

Las Posadas

Las Posadas (Spanish for "the inn") is a traditional Mexican festival which re-enacts Joseph's search for room at the inn. Each Christmas season, a processional carrying a doll representing the Christ Child and images of Joseph and Mary riding a burro walks through the

community streets. The processional stops at a previously selected home and asks for lodging for the night. The people are invited in to read scriptures and sing Christmas carols. The doll is left at the chosen home and picked up on the next night when the processional begins again. This continues for eight nights in commemoration of the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
(Source: www3.kumc.edu/diversity/ethnic_relig/laspsds.html)

Bodhi Day

Buddhist celebration of the time when Prince Gautama sat under the Bodhi (fig) tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment. Gautama set under this tree night and day and rose on the eighth day. This day is usually observed on December 8 or the Sunday immediately preceding the eighth. (Source: www.budtempchi.org/bodhiwriteup.html)

Three Kings Day

Three Kings Day is celebrated on Jan 6th. It is a traditional Hispanic Christian holiday that commemorates the arrival of the three kings in Bethlehem. This religious holiday is widely celebrated in the Hispanic community, especially by Mexican-Americans. Three Kings Day is the gift-giving time, rather than Christmas Day. In some regions of Mexico, it is customary for children to leave their shoes out on the night of Jan 5, often filling them with hay for the camels, in hopes that the Three Kings will be generous. Mexican children awake on Jan 6, to find their shoes filled with toys and gifts.
(Source: www.serve.com/sheagermusa/3kings.htm)

Upcoming Ethnic Observances

January

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Birthday

February

African-American/Black History Month
March

Women's History Month

MSG Debra P.
Equal Opportunity Advisor
Counterdrug Task Force
Commercial: (619) 545-0101
DSN: 735-XXXX

DoD Sexual Assault Hot Line (800) 497-6261

The DoD announced a toll-free number which has been established for people who want to contact or provide information to the DoD Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.

Freedom Isn't Free

A TRIBUTE TO THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD
COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE MEMBERS WHO HAVE GIVEN
THEIR LIVES.



SSG ALFREDO BARAJAS SILVA
1970 - 2005



SSG PAUL CHRISTIAN NEUBAUER
1965 - 2005

We pray that their families will find comfort and peace.